

BILL NYE'S COMIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

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CHAPTER III.

THE ADVENT OF THE ANGLES; CAUSES WHICH LED TO THE REHABILITATION OF BRITAIN ON NEW LINES.



A Disciple of the Liquid Religion Practised by the Saxon.

warm-hearted and garlic-imbued Roman who revels in assassination and gold ear-bobs.

The beautiful daughter of Hengist formed an alliance with Vortigern, the royal foreman of Great Britain—a plain man, who was very popular in the alcoholic set and generally subject to violent lucid intervals which lasted until after breakfast; but the Saxons broke these up, it is said, and Rowena encouraged him in his efforts to become his own worst enemy, and after two or three patent-pailfuls of was-sall would get him to give her another country or two, until soon the Briton saw that the Saxon had a mortgage on the throne, and after it was too late, he said that immigration should have been restricted.

Kent became the first Saxon kingdom, and remained a powerful state for over a century.

More Saxons now came, and brought with them yet other Saxons with yet more children, dogs, vodka and thirst. The breath of a Saxon in a cucumber patch would make a peck of pickles per moment.

The Angles now came also and registered at the leading hotels. They were destined to introduce the hyphen on English soil, and plant the orchards on whose ancestral branches should ultimately hang the Anglo-Saxon race, the progenitors of the eminent aristocracy of America.

Let the haughty, purse-proud American—in whose warm life current one may trace the unmistakable strains of bichloride of gold and trichinae—pause for one moment to gaze at the coarse features and bloodshot eyes of his ancestors, who sat up at nights drenching their souls in a style of nepenthe that it is said would remove moths, tan, freckles and political disabilities.

The seven states known as the Saxon Heptarchy were formed in the sixth and seventh centuries, and the rulers of these states were called "Bretwaldas," or British-wielders. Ethelbert, King of Kent, was Bretwalda for fifty years, and liked it first-rate.

A very good picture is given here showing the coronation of Ethelbert, copied from an old tin-type now in the possession of an aged and somewhat childish family in Philadelphia who descended from Ethelbert and have made

WITH the landing of Hengist and Horsa, English history really begins, for Caesar's capture of the British Isles was of slight importance viewed in the light of fast-receding centuries. There is little to-day in the English character to remind one of Caesar, who was a volatile and epileptic emperor with massive and complicated features.

The rich, warm blood of the Roman does not mantle the cheek of the Englishman of the present century to any marked degree. The Englishman, aping the reserve and hauteur of Boston, Massachusetts, is, in fact, the diametrical antipode of the impulsive,

no effort to conceal it.

Here also the artist has shown us a graphic picture of Ethelbert supported by his celebrated ingrowing mustache receiving Augustine. They both seemed pleased to form each other's acquaintances, and the greeting is a specially appetizing one to the true lover of Art for Art's sake.

For over one hundred and fifty years the British made a stubborn resistance to the encroachments of these coarse people, but it was ineffectual. Their prowess, along with a massive appetite and other hand baggage, soon overran the land of Albion. Everywhere the rude warriors of Northern Europe wiped the dressing from their coarse red whiskers on the snowy table-cloth of the Briton.

In West Wales, or Dumnonia, was the home of King Arthur, so justly celebrated in song and story. Arthur was more interesting to the poet than the historian, and probably as a champion of human rights and a higher civilization should stand in that great galaxy occupied by Santa Claus and Jack the Giant-Killer.

The Danes or Jutes joined the Angles also at this time, and with the Saxons spread terror, anarchy, and common drunks all over Albion. Those who still claim that the Angles were right Angles are certainly ignorant of English history. They were obtuse Angles, and when bedtime came and they tried to walk a crack, the historian, in a spirit of mischief, exclaims that they were mostly a pack of Isosceles Try Angles, but this doubtless is mere badinage.

They were all savages, and their religion was entirely unfit for publication. So-called they were coarse and repulsive. Slaves did the housework, and serfs each morning changed the straw bedding of the lord and drove the pigs out of the boudoir. The pig was the great social middle class between the serfs and the nobility; for the serf slept with the pig by day, and the pig slept with the nobility at night.

And yet they were courageous to a degree (the Saxons, not the Angles). They were fearless navigators and reckless warriors. Armed with their rude meat-axes and one or two Excalibars, they would take something in the way of a tonic and march right up to the



Rowena Captivates Vortigern.



Ethelbert, King of Kent, Proclaimed "Bretwalda."



They Wiped Their Coarse, Red Whiskers on the Snowy Table-Cloth.

mouth of the great Thomas catapult, or fall in the meat with a courage that knew not, recked not of danger.

Christianity was first preached in Great Britain in 597 A. D., at the suggestion of Gregory, afterward Pope, who by chance saw some Anglian youths exposed for sale in Rome. They were fine-looking fellows, and the good man pitied their benighted land. Thus the Roman religion was introduced into England, and was first to turn the savage heart toward God.

Augustine was very kindly received by Ethelbert and invited up to the house. Augustine met with great success, for the King over the country and matriolated by the dozen. If he took a fancy experienced religion and was baptized, after which many of his to a student, he would take him away privately and show him how to read.



Augustine Kindly Received by Ethelbert, King of Kent.



Egbert Gains a Great Victory Over the Fierce Invaders.

subjects repented and accepted salvation on learning that it was free. As many as ten thousand in one day were converted, and Augustine was made Archbishop of Canterbury. On a small island in the Thames he built a church and dedicated it to St. Peter, where now is Westminster Abbey, a prosperous sanctuary entirely out of debt.

The history of the Heptarchy is one of murder, arson, rapine, assault and battery, breach of the peace, petty larceny, and the embezzlement of the enemy's wife.

In 827 Egbert King of Wessex and Duke of Shandgraft, conquered all his foes and became absolute ruler of England (Land of the Angles). Taking charge of this angular king-

dom, he established thus the mighty country which now rules the world in some respects, and which is so greatly improved socially since those days.

Two distinguished scholars flourished in the eighth century, Bede and Alcuin. They at once attracted attention by being able to read coarse print at sight. Bede wrote the Ecclesiastical History of the Angles. It is out of print now. Alcuin was a native of York, and with the aid of a lump of chalk and the side of a vacant barn could figure up things and add like everything. Students flocked to him from

The first literary man of note was a monk of Whitby named Caedmon, who wrote poems on Biblical subjects when he did not have to monk. His works were greatly like those of Milton, and especially like "Paradise Lost." It is said.

Gildas was the first historian of Britain, and the scathing remarks he made about his fellow-countrymen have never been approached by the most merciless of modern historians.

The book was highly interesting, and it is a wonder that some enterprising American publisher has not appropriated it, as the author is now extremely dead.

To Be Continued Next Sunday.

ODD REVENUE FACTS.

Some Amusing Features of Uncle Sam's 1833 Extensive Customs Business.

Statistical tables are not supposed to provoke mirth, but the business man who can read the latest annual report of J. J. Crowley, Supervising Special Agent of the United States Treasury, without laughing aloud or smiling to himself must be something more than human. What business man would pay a collecting agent \$150 to collect \$12? What business man would run a branch store year after year at the loss of thousands of dollars? The United States Treasury does all these things and more, for it often spends \$1,000 to collect \$1. It maintains branch offices that never have or never will pay the cost of running, and what is more it hires agents to maintain offices from which it never received a single penny.

In order to properly appreciate the fun in agent Crowley's tables, it is necessary to know that the average cost of collecting

\$153,002.518, during the fiscal year 1895 was 4.23 cents per \$1 collected. Now at Sitka, the only port in Alaska, it cost \$20,910 to collect \$12,827, the cost to the Government being \$1.63 per dollar collected.

At Annapolis, Md., not a vessel entered or cleared, nor was there an entry of foreign merchandise, but 294 documents were issued to vessels and \$28.45 was collected at a cost of only \$30.25, or \$33.61 per dollar collected. At Burlington, N. J., \$4 was collected at an expense of \$134, an average of \$33.50.

While passing to the next place of highest cost, it would be well to stop for a moment at Great Egg Harbor, N. J., and congratulate the two United States officials, who, during the past year, managed to collect \$101.30 at a cost of only \$826.80, the rate of expenditure to receipts being only as 54 to 1.

The statistics of Techie (Brashear), La., are most bewildering. Three foreign vessels entered, and seven cleared; 257 coastwise vessels entered and 240 cleared; there were six entries of merchandise and 235 documents issued to vessels. Yet the receipts of the office amounted to only \$23.07,

and to collect this, three officers, at an expense of \$8,479.80, were required, making the average cost of collecting a dollar not less than \$150.84.

At Natchez, Miss., two men were paid \$500 to issue four documents to vessels and to collect \$110. This made the average cost \$454.54 per dollar collected.

Another curious fact shown by Agent Crowley's tables is that there are a considerable number of ports of entry at which not a cent is collected. Thus, at Beaufort, N. C., two officials were paid \$1,853.00 to issue 179 documents to vessels. But as no vessels entered or cleared at that port, as there were neither exports nor imports, it is difficult to understand the nature of the business.

At Kennebunk, Me., although no vessel entered or cleared during 1895, three men were paid \$503 to issue seventeen documents, which is at the rate of \$34.89 per dollar. At York, Me., no vessel entered or cleared, no documents were issued to vessels, there were neither imports nor exports and no receipts. Yet a deputy collector was employed at a salary of \$350 to hold down the office chair. In 1894 the

ROYALTY IS PENNILESS.

Kings and Queens Seldom Carry Any Money with Them Like Ordinary Persons.

One of the peculiarities of royal personages is the practice of never carrying about any money with them, and this leads them into all kinds of odd scrapes and adventures. The popular notion that their pockets are generally full of gold and notes which they scatter with a lavish hand is a fallacy, and in nine cases out of ten kings, queens, emperors, as well as princesses and princesses of the blood, do not have a single cent in their pockets.

An amusing illustration of this happened the other day on the south slope of the Semmering Mountain, an hour or two distant from Vienna. The widowed Crown Princess Stephanie and her twelve-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, had undertaken a mountain excursion together, and either intentionally or accidentally had become separated from the gentlemen and ladies in attendance. Hungry and thirsty, they stopped at a small inn and asked for some refreshments, when suddenly the Crown

Princess remembered that she had nothing in her pocket wherewith to pay. Accordingly, she took the landlady into her confidence, informed her who she was, and asked her whether she would trust her.

It is to be regretted that the landlady had, as she claimed, "been there before," and she declined to believe that the simply attired and dust-covered lady and child were archduchesses, and declined to serve them unless paid in advance, even requesting them to relieve the inn of their presence if they had no money.

Crown Princess Stephanie took the matter quietly enough, sensible of its ludicrous side, but the little Archduchess was infuriated, and protested with flashing eyes to the landlady: "Aber wir sind doch ehrliche Leute." ("But I assure you we are honest people.")

In the same way the King of Denmark was once apostrophized as a confidence man by a suspicious jeweler at Hamburg, and ordered out of his shop, merely because, finding that he had not sufficient money in his pocket to pay for the trinket that he had bought, he had asked, in a hesitating and embarrassed manner, that they

should be sent to his hotel.

More than once have the Princesses of Wales and her daughters been denied admission to London picture shows because they had not in their pockets the few shillings needed to pay the entry fee, and the Prince of Wales has actually on one occasion been reduced to pawn his watch, as well as that of his equerry, General Teesdale. It was at Sedan, shortly after the war of 1870. The Prince was visiting the battlefields in the strictest incognito, and was exceedingly anxious that his identity should not become known, fearing that it might give offense to his French friends to know that he was viewing the scene of their disaster. When the time came to leave Sedan he found that he had no money with which to pay either his hotel or carriage bill, and that General Teesdale was in an equally penniless condition. Any telegram that he could have sent for funds would have disclosed his rank, and there were similar objections to his confiding in the innkeeper. So, after much discussion, he decided to send the General to place both their watches in pawn to the Mont de Piete.

EASY TO BE A BANKER.

An Entire Bank Outfit Can Be Bought for \$1,250, and Clerks Are Cheap.

Perhaps the oddest of the "want ads" to be found in newspapers are published by the Banker's Magazine, which rarely reaches the general public, being sold only by subscription. It would seem from a perusal of these advertisements that it is an easy thing to go into the banking business. Here is a complete bank outfit recently offered for \$1,250:

FOR SALE—A complete bank outfit, consisting of handsome fixtures, safe, safety deposit boxes and vault front, desks, tables, chairs and stools, letter press, check punch, coin trays and all other accessories; price \$1,250, one-third original cost.

In another advertisement in the same journal anybody with \$5,000 was offered the opportunity to buy a controlling interest in a flourishing bank, while a young man with \$2,500 could, it was said, purchase a share in a prosperous bank in Nebraska and would be given the position of cashier.